RABBIT SOFTWARE

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RABBIT BASE

by A. F. Hill

Congratulations on buying this quality piece of software. It has been tested thoroughly, and we are sure it will give you good service.

The facilities that are available are:—

1. Simple screen instructions.
2. Two programs to allow for memory restrictions.
3. "Sort" routines.
4. Password protection.
5. Ability to output to printer.
6. Ability to merge with Rabbit Writer.
7. Error checking routines throughout.
8. Ability to re-run program without reloading from cassette.
9. "Add" "Change" "Delete" facilities.
10. Fast "Find" routine.
11. Ability to define maximum length of fields.
12. "Display free memory" routine.
13. Powerful data display routine.
14. Crash-proof code.
15. "Abort" ability on most options.

We hope you will get a great deal of service from RABBIT BASE.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING RABBIT BASE

Before loading Rabbit Base you must first initialise a data file. Initialisation involves setting up the parameters that you wish to have for your data file (A parameter is a variable "field" of information ie: your name).

On the reverse side of your Rabbit Base cassette is the initialisation program. Rewind the cassette to the start and load by using the SHIFT RUN/STOP keys.

You will be prompted with the question "How many Data fields do you wish to have? You must then answer with an integer (Whole Number) between 1 and 25 (eg:- choose 3 if you want NAME, ADDRESS, and TELEPHONE NUMBER or perhaps choose 4 if you wish, additionally, to have "COMMENT".

Once you have done this you will be asked how big you wish each field to be, and the total for all field lengths must not exceed 255. Please note that this is the maximum length and your choice for field length will determine the maximum number of records that will be stored in the Vic's Memory. You will then be prompted with "ALL CORRECT" this requires typing "Y" or "N" in response ie: "Y" for YES or "N" for NO.

After this most important stage you will be asked if you want password protection. Follow screen instructions accordingly and finally load the format onto the data cassette supplied.

Using the same method that you used with the initialisation program, load "RABBIT BASE". Most screen displays will be self explanatory. However, the following should be observed:—

1. The password, if you have chosen to have one, will not be displayed on the screen when you type it in, for your own security.
2. In most cases pressing RETURN will abort an option but this is not the case with data input and some of the other options. Do not be afraid to experiment.
3. When using the "ADD" option, pressing RETURN when asked for input, will automatically place a "N/A" message in its place.
4. The "ACCOUNTS" option will prompt for a field that you wish to add up. If you use your RABBIT BASE for accounts, just input any debits with a negative sign in front of the number for satisfactory results.
5. Re-run, as the name suggests, allows you to re-run the program as though you had just loaded it from tape/disk.
6. SLOW/FAST TOGGLE will switch between fast data display and in the case of the options 7 and 4, a 0.5 second delay between printing each relevant field.
7. After having entered many records, if you use the SORT option, please be patient, in the interest of memory a particularly simple sort (the recursive swap sort) was used and unfortunately does require some time to execute. Note: You can sort numerically as well as alphabetically.

8. "DISPLAY FREE MEMORY" option does a straight forward BASIC command: FRE (X) and will take some time when many records are in memory. Please use this facility if you are worried about running out of memory. It could save a lot of re-typing.

9. Please ensure that your tape deck is as far away as possible from the T.V. set because magnetism can affect the cassette.

10. When using the "SORT" option please remember that certain data must be input in a consistent manner to allow the sorting to be successful for you. Eg: dates should be input in a form like this: YYMMDD with no spaces in between days, month and years eg: 820307 for 7th March 1982.

11. Please be careful with the "DELETE" option, since it updates all records after each deletion eg: if you have three records 1, 2 and 3 and you delete record 2, then record 3 becomes record 2 and there will not be a record 3 until you use the "ADD" option.

12. When using "DISPLAY DATA" you will get 5 options: "+" nudges to next record; "–" nudges to previous record; "R" jumps to any record; "M" returns you to main menu and "P" allows you to print records providing you have chosen "OUTPUT" to "PRINTER" or main menu AND you have chosen the printer option on the INIT program.

13. Please note that you will not hurt the program by experimenting with its facilities, providing you take care not to damage the program by overwriting it with your data.

We at RABBIT SOFTWARE, have endeavoured to produce this package with everyone in mind. As such you may have to try out several ways of storing the data to achieve maximum satisfaction. In any event, we are sure that you will be pleased with the results.